This is an intensive grammar course on Plato's language. We will read Athenaze in all of its parts. In addition, the class will memorize the forms and syntax in order to learn how to translate short passages from the ancient authors.

Textbooks and materials required for purchase:

4. One extra-large three-ring binder along with ruled sheets and dividers (textbook dept.)

During the study of ATHENAZ E (be sure to purchase both Book I and Book II right away), we shall cover approximately four lessons every three weeks. There will be regular weekly tests, sometimes smaller, sometimes larger, ordinarily every Monday. In addition to these tests, there will be daily mini-quizzes on the vocabulary and/or forms, etc., in a given day's assignment. After Spring break, we shall read from Plato and Euripides in the original. A two-hour examination shall end the course.

Attendance is vital. Missing class can be fatal. Starting from the second week, attendance will be scrupulously recorded on a sign-in sheet. Grade-penalties shall accrue for more than three unexcused absences. Missing any test (mini-quizzes, quizzes, and larger tests) will result in a zero on the missed test. No make-ups.

Your final grade for the year course will depend on your performance in two categories: 1) daily classroom work, both written and oral, including mini-quizzes; and 2) tests. If your work improves throughout the year, the better ending will count more than the weaker start.

There will be regular practice sessions conducted by an ΕΦΗΒΑΡΧΟΣ (= "Overseer of the Youth"). Please meet Hestia, a.k.a. Jessamyn Leonard 05, leonardj@kenyon.edu

Practice sessions are mandatory for the first week, after that, they are optional only if you maintain an average score on tests of “B” (83%) or better. Consult with Hestia or me any time you run into a difficulty that will impede your preparation for the next class.

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Guest speakers: Students are strongly encouraged to attend the lectures and reading offered by this year’s special guests of the Classics Department. Students who will email Dr. Asso with a summary of at least one of the two lectures along with their impressions, will receive up to 5 percentage points of extra credit on the grade of the that week’s long quiz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker and Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1:10 pm</td>
<td>Stanley Lombardo, Lecture: TBA</td>
<td>Peirce Lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Stanley Lombardo, Reading: (TBA from Iliad)</td>
<td>Brandi Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADVICE TO GREEKLINGS

For study, dedicate at least two times of the day when you are fresh, one in the morning before class and one in the afternoon after class. Ideally, like the time to go to Greek class, your time to sit down to study will be the same every day. Work intensely for short periods -- certainly no more than an hour at a time. Work every day.

When studying, proceed by learning only as much as you can effortlessly repeat aloud at once. Pronounce all Greek aloud as you are learning it. Regard this as a GIFT to your roommate(s). Forming a word with your mouth, as well as tracing the letters with a pen, will help to sink the information deeply into your memory, which is located in your muscles as well as your skull. Use this opportunity to gain a personal insight that will be of great value for your entire education, at college and beyond: TO LEARN HOW YOU LEARN.

When translating, read each sentence aloud slowly in Greek before translating, giving forms and meaning an initial chance to register in the Greek order. Then look up whatever, after reflection, is not clear. DO NOT write the English meanings in the text (except for occasional notes on special difficulties). Mark difficulties that you could not solve AND ASK IN CLASS.

Keep a notebook section for points made in class. Review these as well as my comments on your written assignment before beginning a new assignment. Please, write out all written assignments clearly in large letters, leaving every other line empty for my comments, for the benefit of my eyes. Usually, I will mark errors on your assignments without correcting them. Therefore, if you find the number of a sentence or suchlike circled, that means that I expect you to re-submit a corrected version along with the next homework.

PLAN TO GET LUNCH BEFORE COMING TO CLASS! Greeklings of the past have found the paper napkins in the dining halls a very useful tool in testing their readiness for a mini-quiz.

Red-figure skyphos showing Herakles going to his lessons. He is chaperoned by his nanny, who is holding his lyre for him.


Elias Canetti (Nobel Prize for literature in 1981) once said that we must study literature down to its tiniest details because, in some 10,000 years of human history, we have made almost no progress in understanding what it means to be human. Amidst the turmoil of 1943 when, being a Jew, he had to escape from his beloved Vienna, he jotted down this remarkable note in his diary. (I hope you will remember it some time, when you feel lost in the wilderness of thematic vowels and case endings.)

You are living as a beggar from the crumbs of the Greeks. What does your pride say to this? If you find in them something that you have thought yourself, don’t forget that in some manner or other it has found its way to you. You got it from them after all. Your mind is their plaything. You are a reed in their wind. You may conjure up the storms of the barbarians as long as you wish: you will still have to think in the crisp, invigorating, wholesome wind of the Greeks.